



**For Immediate Release:**  
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## LIGHTING UP GAINESVILLE TODAY

**Gainesville, Ga.** – The Georgia Department of Transportation announces a new traffic signal is scheduled to be operational today before lunch in Gainesville. The new signal is flashing now at the intersection of State Route 53/Dawsonville Highway at the entrance to Olive Garden, Cheddars and Buffalos Restaurants, south of Ahaluna Drive. Academy Sports and Hobby Lobby are under construction at the intersection.

“The new signal features flashing yellow arrows on Dawsonville Highway. Flashing yellow arrows help drivers better understand when to make a left turn freely, when they should proceed with their turn cautiously, and when they cannot turn left. Our primary purpose is to reduce the often-devastating angle crashes that result when a left-turning vehicle is struck by oncoming traffic. Please be cautious until you get familiar with the changes. Remember, other drivers may be surprised by the new signal so give yourself plenty of space between you and the driver in front of you,” said Georgia DOT District Engineer, Brent Cook.

The new traffic lights are called Four-Section Flashing Yellow Arrow (FYA) signals that will be deployed at intersections with historic heavy left-turning traffic volumes. The FYA signals will apply exclusively to drivers making left turns. The signal will be a vertical display of four left turn arrows functioning as follows (and displayed in the attachment):

- When solid **Red** arrow is illuminated, no left turn is allowed;
- When solid **Yellow** arrow is displayed, drivers should prepare to stop as light is about to turn red;
- When flashing **Yellow** arrow is illuminated, drivers may turn left but must yield to pedestrians and oncoming vehicles; and
- When solid **Green** arrow is displayed, drivers may turn left.

Federal Highway Administration studies have shown these signals help reduce crashes of left-turning vehicles by as much as 35 percent. The FYA also offers clearer guidance to drivers turning left and allows them more movement through the intersection when no pedestrians or oncoming traffic are present, thereby reducing back-ups, engine idling and auto emissions.

FYA will now be Georgia DOT’s preferred left turn traffic signal for eligible locations – those with high numbers of left-turn movements and resultant traffic back-ups and related accidents. In addition to the Georgia DOT locations, cities and counties throughout the state will identify eligible locations and apply to the Department for permits for the new traffic signals.

*The Georgia Department of Transportation is committed to providing a safe, seamless and sustainable transportation system that supports Georgia’s economy and is sensitive to both its citizens and its environment. For more information on Georgia DOT, please visit [www.dot.ga.gov](http://www.dot.ga.gov) or subscribe to our Press Release [RSS feed](#).*

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# PRESS RELEASE

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## STEADY RED ARROW

Stop and Wait

## STEADY YELLOW ARROW

Prepare to Stop

## FLASHING YELLOW ARROW

Yield to Pedestrians & On-Coming Traffic

## STEADY GREEN ARROW

Proceed with Left Turn